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August 15, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 135 – July 2018
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On July 12, EPA Region 2 (Region 2) and CPG held a teleconference to review the calibration status of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- On July 24, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to review Region 2's July 10, 2018 comments on Revision 2 of the Draft 17-mile Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA).

Correspondence

- On July 2, CPG provided Region 2 the dynamic model code and input files for the Bioaccumulation Model.
- On July 2 CPG submitted revised Draft 17-mile Remedial Investigation (RI) Report Section 8 in redline/strikeout (RLSO) and associated Response to Comments (RTC) summary to Region 2.

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- On July 3, CPG provided responses to Region 2 on New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) requests regarding the calculation of post Upper 9-Mile Interim Action (IA) Surface Weighted Area Concentration (SWAC) reductions.
- On July 6, Region 2 requested an update from CPG on a potential bathymetry survey and other pre-design activities for the Upper 9-mile Interim Action.
- On July 10, Region 2 provided CPG comments on Revision 2 of the Draft 17-mile BERA.
- On July 10, CPG suggested scheduling a call with Region 2 to discuss the comments on Revision 2 of the Draft 17-mile BERA.
- On July 10, CPG provided Region 2 an update on the development of the scope of work for a potential bathymetry survey and other data collection activities and suggested scheduling a call to discuss.
- On July 12, CPG provided Region 2 a copy of the presentation from the conference call conducted on this date to review the calibration status of the Bioaccumulation Model and a schedule for providing meeting notes and updated dynamic and steady state model code and input files to Region 2.
- On July 13, Region 2 consultant provided materials to CPG discussed during the July 12 teleconference on the Bioaccumulation Model.
- On July 16, CPG uploaded Section 5 and Appendix F of the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report to Region 2's SharePoint Site.
- On July 16, CPG delivered the June Monthly Progress Report to Region 2.
- On July 16 and 17, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails to schedule a teleconference to review Region 2's comments on Revision 2 of the Draft 17-mile BERA.
- On July 18, CPG submitted updated files and the dynamic and steady state codes and files for the Bioaccumulation Model to Region 2.
- On July 18, CPG submitted RLISO versions of Sections 1-5 of the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report to Region 2.
- On July 18, CPG submitted the Draft Newark Bay Study Area (NBSA) Organic Carbon Modeling Report to Region 2.
- On July 25, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails to schedule a teleconference to discuss Chemical Fate & Transport (CFT) Model Projection Tests.
- On July 25, CPG provided a summary list and status of RI data reports related to Revision 2 of the Draft 17-mile BERA.
- On July 25, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding schedule and discussion topics for an August 1 teleconference on LPRSA and NBSA modeling status.
- On July 27, Region 2 requested, and CPG provided, RTCs for Section 5 of the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report.
- On July 30, Region 2 provided Region 2 and Partner Agency comments on Sections 6, 7, and 10 and Appendices J, L, M, N, and O of the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report to CPG.
- On July 30, CPG notified Region 2 of a delay in providing the Draft NBSA Hydrodynamic Sediment Transport (HST) Report.
- On July 30, CPG provided proposed changes to Region 2 Comment 133 of the Revision 2 of the Draft 17-mile BERA to Region 2.

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- On July 31, CPG provided Region 2 an updated modeling deliverables schedule and identified a list of July 30, 2018 Region 2 comments on the Draft 17-mile RI Report to discuss during the scheduled August 1 modeling teleconference.

Work

- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report and Model Appendices.
- CPG initiated response to Region 2's comments on the Revision 2 of the Draft 17-mile BERA.
- CPG continued work on calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT model.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the LPR Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG continued work on revision of Newark Bay Model documentation.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue work on the revised Draft 17-mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. The Executive Summary, Summary, Conclusions, and References Sections of the revised Draft RI Report and Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) have been partially revised, but additional collaboration with Region 2 is required to complete their revision.
- CPG will continue work on Revision 2 of the Draft 17-mile BERA in response to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue calibration of the revised LPR/Newark Bay CFT model and continue to work with HDR to complete the calibration.
- CPG will continue revising and calibrating the LPR Bioaccumulation Model pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG will continue discussions with Region 2 regarding comments on the Upper 9-mile Interim Action.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- **Feasibility Study (FS)** – Region 2, NJDEP and the CPG are currently discussing the refocus of the FS to an upper 9 miles Interim Action

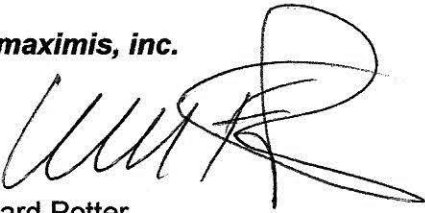
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- **Other Documents** – Region 2 and CPG are working on finalizing the outstanding documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel
Lisa Baron, USACE
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